

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 17, 2002 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 68 to 70 have been re-presented for examination. Claims 20 to 70 are pending in this application, with claims 20, 57 and 68 being the independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended, and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the prior Office Action, all of the claims were deemed allowable except for claims 68 to 70. In response, and to move the case quickly to issuance, applicant cancelled claims 68 to 70. In the pending Office Action, the Examiner has withdrawn the indication of allowance. Consequently, and because claims 68 to 70 were rejected in view of the same reference that the remaining claims are now rejected, applicants re-present claims 68 to 70 for examination.

It is noted that the file does not contain a Patent Drawing Review by the Patent Office Draftsperson. It is requested that this Review be undertaken and a Review by the Draftsperson be issued in response to this Amendment.

In the Office Action mailed December 17, 2002, independent claims 20 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by EP Patent publication No. 0,682,571 ("Sundholm"). Dependent claims 21 to 56 and 58 to 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundholm. In the Office Action mailed September 24, 2004, independent claim 68 and dependent claims 69 and 70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Sundholm.

The invention as recited in independent claims 20, 57 and 68 uses a plate, which is thin; therefore, the feeding hole through which the treating agent passes is short in comparison to the diameter of the hole through the plate. Therefore, it is possible to feed very small amounts of coating mixture through these holes using a very low feeding pressure. The jets formed with this kind of system are quite uniform and no little, if any mist, is formed, as is the case with convention spray coating.

Sundholm discloses a spray coating method in which spray mist is formed in application nozzles where pressurized air breaks up the coating mixture. The nozzles are discussed on page 3, in paragraphs [0014] and [0015] of Sundholm. The present invention, as recited in independent claims 20, 57 and 68, uses a thin plate having small holes for forming jets of coating agent. Sundholm does not describe any kind of plate with holes in it. Thus, the invention recited in

independent claims 20, 57 and 68 is based on totally different technical idea compared to Sundholm and the principle of operation is also totally different.

For these, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 20, 57 and 68 are patentable. Dependent claims 21 to 56, 58 to 67, 69, and 70 are patentable for the same reasons that independent claims 20, 57 and 68 are patentable. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By 

Michael C. Stuart

Reg. No. 35,698

551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210

New York, New York 10176

(212) 687-2770

Dated: April 17, 2003